

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 296

**“AN ACT TO INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
BY EXPANDING HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES”**

SPONSORED BY: Senator BURNS of Washington

CO-SPONSORED BY: Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner,
Senator: HAMPER of Oxford
Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin
Representative: CRAFTS of Lisbon
Representative: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe
Representative: O’CONNOR of Berwick
Representative: SHERMAN of Hodgdon
Representative: STETKIS of Canaan.

DATE OF HEARING: April 7, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Resource Management Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 296**.

This bill allows a person with a hunting license to hunt on Sundays during the month of November on public lands greater than 10 acres in size that are open to hunting or on private property greater than 10 acres in size with the consent of the property owner.

Within the context of this proposal the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will have to obtain adequate information from a participating landowner to administer an effective and efficient program.

We would like to remind the Committee that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has jurisdiction over State Parks and Historic Sites located in developed areas as well as public lands in unorganized territories. You may want to consider inviting a representative from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the work session.

The Administration does understand that Sunday hunting could provide potential economic growth and additional opportunity to hunters. At the same time, we recognize that landowners prefer to have Sunday as a day that they can enjoy their land and allow other stewards opportunity to recreate without hunting related concerns.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.